(b) if so, the names of such companies in which foreigners were working in the above capacity as in December, 2006;

(c) the countries, to which they belong to;

(d) whether there is any possibility of security threat as a result of foreigners working in the above capacity; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As per records available, CEO of M/s Tata Teleservices Limited is an American citizen and the Managing Director (MD) of Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited is a U.S. citizen. MD of Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited has also obtained Overseas Indian Citizen card.

(d) and (e) The Government has notified Press Note 5 (2005 Series) dated 3.11.2005 for enhancement of Foreign Direct Investment from 49 per cent to 74 per cent subject to certain licensing and security conditions contained therein. The date of implementation of said press note for the existing telecom service providers has been extended up to 2nd April, 2007.

Action plan of Department of Posts

1817. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to cut down losses and achieve a higher degree of competitiveness, the Department of Posts has put together an ambitious action plan to connect most of its major post offices across the country and is planning to invest Rs. 6,000 crore for the technology upgradation across its postal network;

(b) whether India Post strongly needs to enhance its technology to compete with the private players; and

(c) whether the Department of Posts plans to invest Rs. 12,000 crore during the Eleventh Five Year Plan including a plan to computerize and connect its 1.5 lakh post offices across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Recognizing the importance of technology in enabling India Post to achieve a higher degree of competitiveness and improve efficiency, the Department of Post has provided computers in 8163 Post Offices throughout the country as part of a Tenth Plan programme. The Department has formulated proposals for computerizing and networking a much larger number of Post Offices throughout the country as part of its Eleventh Plan activities. The Eleventh Plan outlay for induction and upgradation of technology in the postal network has not yet been finalized.

Semi-conductor policy

1818. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that semi-conductor policy has been delayed in view of differences between Ministry of Finance and his Ministry on subsidy component;

(b) whether it is also a fact that globally 30 percent subsidy is provided on semi-conductor project cost; and

(c) whether there is any probability that without subsidy, viability of the project is likely to be affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The Government has accorded approval to the Special Incentive Package Scheme to attract investments for setting up Semi conductor Fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacture industries in India. The incentive would be 20% of the capital expenditure if the units are set up in the Special Economic Zones (SEZ). For units set up outside SEZ, the